

REMARKS

Claims 4-11 are pending in the present application. Claims 4-11 have been amended, and claims 1-3, and 13-19 have been canceled. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The examiner indicates independent claims 4 and 6 are allowable, and claims 5, 7, 8/4-8/6 and 9/4-9/7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication and to promote prosecution, claims 2, 3, 13 and 15-19 have been canceled, and claims 8 and 9 have been amended to depend only on independent claims 4 or 6. Further, claims 4-11 have been amended to correct minor cosmetic informalities. Claims 4-11 have not been amended to overcome any cited art. In addition, Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application to continue prosecution of features included in some of the canceled claims.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) noted in the office action are moot. Therefore, the pending claims are allowable.

Accordingly, favorable consideration and allowance of the above-identified application are therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

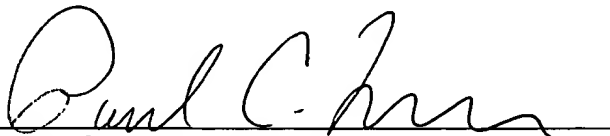
All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Paul C. Lewis, Registration No. 43,368 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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